

## REMARKS

The allowance of claims 27-29 subject to being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claims 27-29 have been rewritten in independent form as claims 39-41, respectively, and are now presumed allowable.

New claim 44 is also directed to a locking connector including, *inter alia*, a contact component including a contact section and another section spaced from the contact section, and an intermediate section that interconnects the contact section and the another section, and an opening for the second conductor extending through the intermediate section, similar to allowable claim 27 and is also submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons.

Claims 45 and 46 depend from claim 44 and add the limitations of allowable claims 28 and 29 and are also submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 24, 26, 30, 33 and 37 have been amended to depend from claim 44 and claim 35 has been amended to depend from claim 39, whereby claims 24, 26, 30, 33, 35 and 37 and their respective dependent claims 31, 34 and 36 are also submitted as clearly allowable. In amending claim 33 to depend from claim 44, the misspelling of the word "contact", as kindly pointed out by the Examiner, has been corrected.

New claim 42 is claim 25 rewritten in independent form, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelati in view of Kubota et al. According to the Examiner, Gelati discloses all of the limitations of claim 25 except for the grip locking end portion being transversely curved. For that feature, the Examiner relies on Kubota et al, contending that it would have been obvious to manufacture

Gelati's grip locking end portion transversely curved, as taught by Kubota et al, to make the end portion correspondent to the configuration of the second conductor. However, the grip locking end portion 1A of Kubota et al is described as having a tooth portion to bite the cable, not a transversely curved grip locking end portion to conform to the profile of the cable as recited in claim 42. Accordingly, claim 42 is also submitted as clearly allowable.

Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gelati. However, claim 38 also recites that the clip has a grip locking end portion that is transversely curved to conform to the profile of the second conductor, similar to claim 42, and is submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons.

New claim 43 is claim 32 rewritten in independent form, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, allegedly because the claim limitation "... said release hole extends through said elongate rib formed in said contact section ..." contradicts the specification and other claims. In support thereof, the Examiner states that according to the specification (Fig. 1, for example), the opening for the second conductor is located not in the contact section but in the intermediate section (claim 27). However, it appears the Examiner has confused the release hole in the contact section with the opening in the intermediate section for the second conductor. As clearly shown in Figs. 13 and 15 of the drawings and described on page 10 of the specification, the release holes 140 are formed through elongate rib 126 which is in contact section 104. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 32, now rewritten as claim 43 as aforesaid, is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanishi et al in view of Gelati. According to

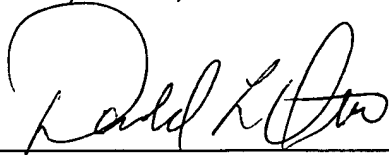
the Examiner, Tanishi et al when modified by Gelati discloses a guide elongate rib (226). However, neither of these references, whether taken singly or collectively, discloses a release hole extending through an elongate rib formed in a contact section of a contact component of a locking connector as recited in claim 43. Accordingly, claim 43 is also submitted as clearly allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, this application is now believed to be in condition for final allowance of all of the pending claims 24, 26, 30, 31 and 33-46, and early action to that end is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner disagree with applicants' attorney in any respect, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney in an effort to resolve such differences.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for an extension of time and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. CUTLP0101USA).

Respectfully submitted,

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## APPENDIX – Amendment Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

Following is a marked-up version of the above amendments to the claims, with added material underlined, and with removed material struck out and in brackets.

Please amend claims 24, 26, 30, 33, 35 and 37 as follows:

24. (Amended) The connector of claim 44 [23] wherein said clip has a grip locking end portion in alignment with said opening that is spring biased to grip the second conductor.

26. (Amended). The connector of claim 44 [23] wherein said clip is electrically conductive.

30. (Amended). The connector of claim 44 [23] wherein said contact section includes guide means for locating the second conductor relative to said clip.

33. (Amended). The connector of claim 44 [23] further including an enclosure that accommodates said contact [~~compact~~] component, said enclosure having an inlet aligned with said opening for receiving the second conductor.

35. (Amended) The connector of claim 39 [23] wherein said contact component has opposite ends, said opening that receives the second conductor extending through one of said ends, and another opening that receives the first conductor extending through the other of said ends, and at least one additional spring locking clip that is spring biased to grip the first conductor and hold the first conductor in electrical interengagement with said contact section, while resisting disengagement of the first conductor from said contact section.

37. (Amended) The connector of claim 44 [23] further comprising an enclosure that includes a generally rectilinear component having an interior space that accommodates said contact component, said rectilinear component including a front surface having an inlet aligned with said opening for receiving the second conductor, and a rib that peripherally surrounds said rectilinear component and extends transversely to said front surface, said generally rectilinear component including at least one surface that has a recess formed therein which facilitates a user's grip.

Claims 21, 23, 25, 27-29 and 32 have been cancelled.

New claims 39-46 have been added.